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NATIONAL
LIBRARY OF
IRELAND

The STATE of the *English* and *Foreign* Weavers
CASE, in and throughout the City and Suburbs
of DUBLIN, with their GRIEVANCES
also Humbly Presented to the Honourable HOUSE
of COMMONS.

I. **T**HAT there being several Proclamations Issued in this Kingdom, for the Encouragement of Foreigners to Trade and Inhabit therein, for the Advancement of Trade and Publick Good. There did great Numbers of Foreigners come out of *England*; and settled themselves in the said City, Pursuant to the said Proclamations; and followed the Weavers Trade, not doubting of being Protected, and Encouraged therein; but such has been the ill Usage and Abuses of the Corporation of Weavers of this City to the said Foreigners, that they have not been able to Live therein, being forced for Sanctuary to fly into the Liberties of *Thomas Court*, and *Donore*, belonging to the Earl of *Meath*.

II. That notwithstanding their being in the said Liberties, yet have the said Corporation, from time to time, Intruded upon the said Liberties, and used all the endeavours they could by abusing the said Foreigners Goods and Persons, and Disturbing them in the Exercising of their Callings, and to Turn them out of the Kingdom and Ruine their Families; as appeared on a Hearing before the Council Board, in the Year 1691, and doth now appear, by the several Affidavids taken, to the great decay of Trade, and a considerable Loss to the Publick.

III. That the said Foreigners have been the only Persons that have promoted Drapery Manufacture of this Kingdom, and have advanced the same to great degree, and do make better Stuffs, and Draperies, then the said Corporation; yet do the said Corporation use all new means, to destroy the Foreigners Trade, and have lately Petitioned to the Honourable House of Commons, complaining that the Cloathing Trade is utterly lost, for want of making Lawful, and Vendable Goods, by the *Aulnagers* being Ignorant of his Duty; and thereby the said Corporation Prayed, that they might be joyned with the *Aulnager*, in Viewing, and Trying the said Draperies, which if Obtained will be to the utter Ruine and Destruction of the Poor Foreigners, for the said Corporation will be Judges in their own Cause, and the Foreigners Goods (tho Lawful and Vendable Goods, and better made then by the Corporation) must be despised, and disallowed, as the Corporation pleases; by which means we Foreigners can never expect any justice, or mercy from the said Corporation.

IV. That there is nothing the Foreigners Desires more then that all the Goods they make, may stand the Test, (whether Lawfull and Vendable Goods, or not) and that by well knowing judicious Men in the said Trade.

V. That the Trade of *Bayes* hath been wholly Lost, by the Ill making of them; when the Corporation had the *Aulnage* in their own hands, great quantities of them being Transported into *Spain*, and there burnt, not being sufficient Goods; At which time the Foreigners made no *Bayes*, and therefore they could be in no fault, as to them *Bayes*.

VI. That the said Corporation admit any Persons to become Free that pays them Money, as appears by several Affidavids, which plainly shews they would obstruct the Trade of the Foreigners out of private Gains, and not the publick Good, as they pretend; And for as much therefore, as the Trade of New Draperies hath Advanced ten to one, since the said Foreigners came into this Kingdom.

VII. The said Foreigners (Being most of them English Men) humbly offer and pray, That the proposals by the Corporation for the Regulation in making New Draperies, may be as well view'd, try'd, and consider'd by the said Foreigners, (who are above One Thousand Persons in number, all Master-workmen) as the said Corporation. And that the viewing, and trying of all Goods made, or to be made for the time to come, may not be in the power of the Corporation, but in the hands of an Aulnager, and an Experienced Man; and that the Aulnager may be obliged to Seal and Try Goods, as well in the County of *Dublin*, and other parts of the Kingdom, as in the City and Suburbs of *Dublin*.

VIII. And in regard it may be suggested, That the Foreigners refuse Compliance with the Corporation, out of some ill design, and that these Proposals, &c. are only to colour the same: The Foreigners humbly desire, That the Aulnager may be ordered to keep Two distinct Seals, viz. One for Sealing all Draperies made by the Corporation, and the others for such as are made by the Foreigners, by which the Goods of the Corporation, and the Foreigners may be distinguished, that the whole Kingdom may be Judges of the Foreigners honesty, and integrity, and their ability in making good and vendible Goods.

IX. And for the further promotion of the Woollen Manufactory of this Kingdom, and to prevent any frauds or deceits that may hereafter be committed, or done, either by the said Corporation or Foreigners: The said Foreigners humbly prays, That the two Seals aforesaid be constantly remaining in the Aulnager's hands, and that he may be on Oath obliged to do impartial justice in the Viewing, Trying, and Sealing the several and respective Goods now made, or hereafter to be made, both by the Corporation and Foreigners.

X. That the Aulnager, if at any time he Seal any Bad or Insufficient Goods, upon discovery thereof made by any of the Foreigners, then they or any of them may be permitted without interruption of the Aulnager, or Corporation, to bring him the said Aulnager for the time being, before a Magistrate, or Justice of the Peace, to examine the sufficiency or insufficiency of the said Goods, and that he may be required to answer the Complaints (if any against him) by the said Foreigners at the next Sessions.

XI. That if any of the said Corporation, or Quarter-Brothers, deriving under them, should at any time bring any insufficient Goods of their own, or others to the Aulnager to be Sealed, and may pretend the same to be made by some of the Foreigners, thereby to Scandalize them, and Render them incapable of making good Work: That all such insufficient Goods so Sealed, or to be Sealed, be Forfeited, the one half to the King, and the other to the Informer or Discoverer; And that any person or persons, either of the said Corporation, or those deriving under them, as also any of the Foreigners that do bring any bad, or insufficient Piece or Pieces of Goods to be Sealed, that the same may not only be Forfeited as aforesaid, but such to be Punished according to Law, whether of the Corporation or Foreigners.

XII. That the Foreigners may Exercise their Calling Independent of the Corporation, and that they might have a particular Privilege among themselves once every Year to chose a select Number of the said Foreigners (consisting of 12 Men) (such as they shall Judge most Knowing and Understanding in the Trade) to make such Regulations as they shall think fit, Relating to the several sorts of Stuffs, Serges, and Cloaths that hereafter shall be made by any of the said Foreigners, and this to prevent any Fraud or Deceit that otherwise might be committed, in the ill making such Stuffs, &c.

XIII. That if at any time any New Stuffs, Serges, &c. come in Fashion, or from beyond Seas, be brought to any of the said Foreigners and they to agree on a Regulation, yet it may be in a Months time, New Stuffs, &c. by the Merchants may be

be required according to such New Fashions ; And if the said Foreigners should not be allowed a Regulation for making such Goods, thereupon the Merchant or Merchants may send to other Countries to be there supplied, furnished with such Stuffs, Serges, &c. as they may have occasion for from time to time; whereby the Foreigners may be Ruined. On the contrary, if the said Foreigners be permitted as occasion Requires to make such Goods as the Merchants would have, and from time to time to Regulate them accordingly ; Then the Foreigners will thereby for their own Credit, and Satisfaction to the Merchants, gain a Trade.

XIV. That the Corporation of Weavers aforesaid, have the like liberty to Regulate among them in their Hall, as part of their By-Laws, whereby it will soon appear, who best, and most increas'd the Trade; either the Corporation or Foreigners, and who are the best Workmen, and Benefactors in the Kingdom.

Lastly, And for the better satisfaction thereof, the Foreigners desires a Copy of such Regulations may be lodged in the *Aulnagers Office*, whereby he will be the better enabled to Examine, Try, and Judge of the goodness and insufficiency of the Goods made by the said Corporation, Quarter-Brothers, and Foreigners aforesaid.

All which aforesaid Particulars, the said Foreigners do Humbly, and Earnestly Recommend to the serious Consideration of the Honourable the Committee of Trade, &c.

That the Foreigners do not doubt, but to make it Evident and Plain, That the Corporation of *Weavers*, are the Ruine of both the New and Old Draperies, by their usage to Strangers and Artists ; by which usage they keep thousands of Families from coming out of *England*, who would willingly come, but that they hear they cannot without great difficulty set up their Trades in *Dublin*, without being Free; which to obtain is very Difficult and Chargeable, that they that would come are Discouraged ; If a Man Petition to 'em before they generally ask for his Admittance four or five Pounds at first for his Freedom, and the better Artist he is, the more Money they ask, for they fear such a one will do them harm or prejudice ; then after he is admitted Free, before he can follow his Trade, the Charge of the City is about three pounds ; and when Foreigners comes to be Brothers, they presently make him Beadle, the Fees whereof, amounts to at least Forty shillings. The next Year Warden, the Charge whereof is five pounds, and if the Corporation find him thrive, they soon make him Master, the Charge of which comes to at least Ten Pounds ; so computing the whole Charge of Foreigners Freedom as aforesaid, will amount to about Twenty Pounds.

The Corporations Oppression to the Foreigners is such, that instead of any more of them to come over from *England*, those already Settled must of Necessity be forced to Return if not Remedied & Redressed by this present Parliament. Instance the Case of Mr. *Farrel* late of, *Dublin* Deceas'd, who first brought the New Drapery to perfection in this Kingdom, and was the occasion of some Hundreds to come out of *England*. When *Jacob Hudson* a Freeman of the said Corporation had the Sealing of the Goods, they maliciously and spitefully prevail'd with him to boyl some of the Goods of the said *Farrel's* in *Allom*, and kept him at Law during his Life, thereby to Invalidate the Experience of the Foreigners, as by Affidavids hereafter mention'd doth appear.

The Foreigners humbly Pray and Desire, that such Goods as are, or shall be hereafter made by them, or any of them at any time, shall not be Seiz'd, or otherwise hindred by the said Corporation when going to the *Aulnager* to be Sealed, Viewed, and Tryed ; And that no Goods made by any of the Foreigners of the City and Suburbs of *Dublin*, or other the Foreigners in and throughout this Kingdom, shall be stoped or molested by any of the Corporations therein, but that such Foreigners with their Goods, (Provided they be sufficient and vendible) may have free Egress and Regress, to come to, and from any part of this Kingdom, to the said City of *Dublin*.

And

And for further Demonstration of the said Corporations Abuse to the Foreigners at a Court-Leet, held by the Seneschal of *Thomas Court Liberty*, on *Thursday* the 24th of *October*, 1695 for taking the Names of all the Inhabitants therein; The said Corporation Employed two or more of themselves, who privately and sinisterly Endeavoured (at the said Court-Leet, to Seduce and Inveagle several of the Foreigners Journey men to join and side with them, and desert the Foreigners; the Corporation promising them all the Encouragement possible: Which unjust proceedings, and under hand dealing, being by some of the Foreigners discover'd and imparted to the Seneschal, he thereupon Reprimanded such of the Corporation as were guilty thereof.

That the said Foreigners do not desire to be a particular Corporation of themselves, but to be Free from the Oppressions, and Abuses of the aforesaid Corporation, who hinders the poor Foreigners to Sell, or Vend their Goods in *High street*, or Elsewhere, within the City of *Dublin*, aforesaid; as by the annexed Affidavids more at large may appear, to which the said Foreigners Refer themselves.

John Clyton Weaver, *That he was in His Majesties Service at Athlone, Aghrim, and Limerick; that Returning to his Trade, and working with one Doufona Weaver in Thomas Court Liberty, the Wardens of the Corporation threatned him and his Master, for his working without their Licence, and forced him to pay five shillings, which was within three pence of all he Earned.* Jurat coram me 11 die July, 1692.

J. Hely.

Garret Rogers, *That in 1674, he was Servant to Mr. Hudson, a Freeman of the Corporation of Weavers, who kept the Seal of the Woollen Drapery, That Mr. William Farrell, Weaver, having a piece of Cloath Serge to Seal, brought the same to the aforesaid Hudson: That the said Corporation cautioned the said Hudson not to Seal the said Serge, by reason it was not good Goods, as they alledged, and maliciously prevailed with the said Hudson to boyle the said Serge in allum, which made it look ugly and bad to the Eye, tho really it was good Goods: That during his service with the said Hudson, he observed very unkind usage to the Foreigners, and to view their Goods cautiously; when as he would go to the Freemens Houses and Seal their Goods without any more trouble.* Jurat Coram me 17 Die Oct. 1692.

Bar. Browne.

Com. Dublin.

William Tapscott of *Truck street*, Weaver, came this day before me and made Oath, *That Mr. Moses Markham, about Three Years agoe, being the then Master of the Corporation of Weavers, with several of the Brethren of the said Corporation, came to his house, and after a beistering and terrifying mannour, told him that he must come in free of their Corporation, or else they would not suffer him to work, and demanded to see his Loom, which he refused, not being willing to let them to see or prie into his Art, he being about a piece of Goods called Indian Hitch, never made in this Kingdom before. And deposeeth that notwithstanding he told them that they ought rather to encourage him than treat him after the severe manner they did, his being a new Art they were strangers to; yet they forced him out of his House, and kept him Prisoner till he would pay them Ten Shillings. And deposeeth that to get his liberty he was forced, though with great difficulty, his Stock being but small, and newly come from England, and being a stranger, and having a Family, to pay them Ten Shillings.* Jurat coram me 25 die Octb. 1695.

Ber. Brawn.

We have many more Affidavids already sworn, which we doubt not but will sufficiently shew their unnatural and unjust Dealings to us English Men, newly come out of *England*, if the honourable House of Commons, or Committee of Trade desire it.

And for futher Demonstration of the said Corporations Abuse to the Foreigners at a Court-Leet, held by the Seneschal of *Thomas Court Liberty*, on *Thursday* the 24th of *October*, 1695, for taking the Names of all the Inhabitants therein; The said Corporation Employed two or more of themselves, who privately and sinisterly Endeavoured (at the said Court-Leet, to Seduce and Iaveagle several of the Foreigners Journey men to join and side with them, and desert the Foreigners; the Corporation promising them all the Encouragement possible: Which unjust proceedings, and under hand dealing, being by some of the Foreigners discover'd and imparted to the Seneschal, he thereupon Reprimanded such of the Corporation as were guilty thereof.

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